

Apr. 17 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Annual Report of the National Science Foundation

April 17, 1991

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to send you the annual report of the National Science Foundation for Fiscal Year 1990. This report describes research supported by the Foundation in the mathematical, physical, biological, social, behavioral, and computer sciences; engineering; and education in those fields.

Achievements such as the ones described here are the basis for much of our Nation's strength—its economic growth, national security, and the overall well-being of our

people.

As we move into the 1990s, the Foundation will continue its efforts to expand our Nation's research achievements, our productivity, and our ability to remain competitive in world markets through innovation and discoveries.

I commend the Foundation's work to you.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
April 17, 1991.

Appointment of Gene C. Schaerr as Associate Counsel to the President

April 17, 1991

The President today announced the appointment of Gene C. Schaerr, of Utah, to be Associate Counsel to the President.

Since 1987 Mr. Schaerr has been an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Sidley & Austin, where he has specialized in appellate and regulatory litigation and in antitrust law. Prior to this, he served at the Supreme Court of the United States as a law clerk to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, 1986–87, and at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

as a law clerk to Circuit Judge Kenneth W. Starr, 1985–86.

Mr. Schaerr holds a B.A. degree in economics from Brigham Young University (highest honors, 1981), master degrees in economics and philosophy from Yale University (M.A., 1985; M. Phil., 1986), and a law degree from Yale Law School (J.D., 1985). He was born April 15, 1957, in Kanab, UT. Mr. Schaerr is married, has five children, and resides in Gaithersburg, MD.

Remarks on Signing the Federal Energy Management Executive Order

April 17, 1991

The President. Before we get started on the Cabinet business, I want to just conduct another piece of important business. As you know, one of our key goals is the implementation of the national energy strategy.

And I'm very pleased to sign this Executive order today that directs all the Federal

Agencies to take whatever appropriate action is necessary to reduce their energy use by at least 20 percent by the year 2000 and reduce fuel consumption by at least 10 percent by the year 1995. This order is a component, an important component, of the national energy strategy. And it demon-

strates our commitment to a balanced approach for achieving an energy future that is secure, that is efficient, and that is environmentally sound.

The savings come from reduced energy use in Federal buildings and facilities, fuel savings in the whole Federal vehicle fleet, increased reliance on alternative fuels and alternative-fueled vehicles, and use of other energy-efficient products. Such actions would then save up to an estimated \$800 million per year by our target year 2000, the equivalent of up to 100,000 barrels of oil per day. So, achieving these important and ambitious goals is part of our strategy for enhancing our overall energy security. And doing so is commonsense business management, I might add.

So, I wanted to do this with all the Cabinet here to ask for your support on all of this, hoping that this initiative will also encourage the private sector to undertake similar actions. An awful lot can be done just by the actions that I've outlined here.

So now, Jim, many thanks to you for your key role in the energy strategy. I will sign this.

[At this point, the President signed the Executive order.]

It's all yours. All right. That's done.

Assistance for Iraqi Refugees

Q. Mr. President, are you willing to relax

the sanctions to allow Iraq to sell oil and supposedly to get food and supplies for the Kurdish refugees?

The President. Look, I don't want to take any questions.

I will say that the priority is, get the relief to these people that are suffering. Then we'll talk about that. But this relief effort will go and must go smoothly. And then we can consider extraneous matters, matters that may be important to Iraq. But our priorities—the world's priorities—are set. And they say, let these refugees be settled on the flat places temporarily, and let them be fed, let medicine get in there.

And then when that is done and everything's done peacefully and harmoniously, then I might be willing to consider something else. But we're not going to—we're going to be sure what comes first. And what comes first is taking care of these people that have been deprived of their homes and that are terrified and also that are suffering very much. So, that's the order in which we will address these problems.

Thank you all very much.

Note: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins. The Executive order is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.

Toasts at the State Dinner for President Violeta Chamorro of Nicaragua

April 17, 1991

President Bush. Ladies and gentlemen, we can get all this out of the way early. It is a distinct privilege for Barbara and me to salute this evening an extraordinary leader of honor, compassion, and courage.

With the greatest admiration, we welcome to the White House Nicaragua's President, Violeta Chamorro. Or, as I hear she was known by her growing family, or the family growing up, *Madre Superiora*. *[Laughter]* For those of you who don't

speak good Spanish—*[laughter]*—that means "Mother Superior." For even as a young girl, Violeta could get her brothers and sisters standing at attention as she cracked her benevolent whip to get her family's house in order.

Well, now, this "Mother Superior" is getting her nation's house in order, and we honor her for it. We honor her as the conciliator who is forging a future of peace and unity for her beleaguered land, as the elect-